

Washington, D.C. - Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) released the following statement following the President's State of the Union address:

"I was glad to hear the President reflect the concerns of my constituents in the 8th District, who are worried about their economic security, given the recent decline in value of their homes and savings. The President and the Senate need to follow the House's lead by enacting comprehensive financial regulatory reform to protect consumers and their investments.

"We need to promote economic growth by focusing on access to credit and targeted tax incentives for small businesses, the drivers of our local economy.

"And lastly, we need to aggressively attack the deficit by reducing non-discretionary spending, as well as freezing discretionary spending as the President has proposed. Toward that end, I've proposed the SAFE Commission Act, which forces Congress to make hard decisions on entitlement reform and I continue to vote against excessive spending."